



LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGIONAL PARK AND OPEN SPACE DISTRICT

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March 06, 2012

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**ALLOCATE COUNTY EXCESS FUNDS AVAILABLE TO THE FIFTH SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FOR A GRANT TO THE ARROYOS &
FOOTHILLS
CONSERVANCY FOR THE TOP OF ROSEMONT ACQUISITION PROJECT
(FIFTH DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$350,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth District specified pursuant to the Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for a grant to the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy to fund the purchase of 7.75 acres of land, located at the north end of Rosemont Avenue, also known as "Top of Rosemont", in the unincorporated area of La Crescenta.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed Top of Rosemont Acquisition Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act according to Section 15325(f) and Class 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project consists of the acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.
2. Allocate \$350,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996, to the Department of Parks and Recreation for a grant to the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy for the Top of Rosemont Acquisition Project.

3. Authorize the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, in his capacity as the Director of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District, to award a grant in the amount of \$350,000, to the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy for the Top of Rosemont Acquisition Project after the Department of Parks and Recreation assigns its right to apply for the funds to the Conservancy, if applicable conditions have been met, and to administer the grant as of the date of this action and pursuant to procedures in the Procedural Guide for Specified, Per Parcel, and Excess Funds Projects; otherwise funds shall remain in the Excess Funds account.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will allocate \$350,000 in County Excess Funds, available to the Fifth Supervisorial District, pursuant to the Los Angeles County Safe Neighborhood Parks Proposition of 1996 (1996 Proposition), for a grant to the Arroyos & Foothills Conservancy (AFC) for its Top of Rosemont Acquisition Project.

The proposed project consists of the acquisition of 7.75 acres of natural open space property, known as the "Top of Rosemont", located at the northern end of Rosemont Avenue in the unincorporated area of La Crescenta in the Fifth Supervisorial District. The property contains a mix of oak woodland and alluvial sage scrub habitat. A recent ornithological visit identified 31 bird species and the land may also provide habitat for the endangered Arroyo toad. The overall project cost is estimated at \$450,000. The \$350,000 of County Excess Funds requested will pay for the cost of the land and will be supplemented by private donations and a fund drive to pay for items such as a biological survey, a management plan and restoration of habitat.

The Department of Parks and Recreation (Department), which is a designated recipient of County Excess Funds under the 1996 Proposition, will assign its right to apply for the funds for the Top of Rosemont Acquisition Project to the AFC. In a related item on today's agenda the Department requests your approval to assign the \$350,000 in County Excess Funds to the AFC.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended action will further the Board-approved County Strategic Plan Goals of Operational Effectiveness (Goal 1), Children, Family, and Adult Well-Being (Goal 2), and Community and Municipal Services (Goal 3), by providing natural habitat and recreational access in La Crescenta in the Fifth Supervisorial District.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The proposed project will be funded with the requested \$350,000 in County Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District and with private donations.

Sufficient appropriation for the grant, in the amount of \$350,000, is budgeted in the Fifth Supervisorial District portion of the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District Excess Funds Project Fund, HD6.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The 1996 Proposition requires that agencies to which funds were allocated under the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996 encumber all such funds prior to receiving grants of Excess Funds. The AFC has met this requirement.

The 1996 Proposition provides a method for determining each fiscal year the amount of funds available in the following fiscal year to fund capital improvement projects in addition to the amounts specifically identified for projects in the Safe Neighborhood Parks Propositions of 1992 and 1996. The recommended grant will be funded from the Excess Funds available to the Fifth Supervisorial District for County projects.

The Board may establish additional conditions on grants of Excess Funds. The Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation would be authorized to award a grant when all applicable conditions have been met. Any funds allocated by the Board, but not encumbered by award of a grant contract in the same fiscal year, shall be available for allocation by the Board in the following fiscal year.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The proposed Top of Rosemont Acquisition Project is categorically exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) according to Section 15325 (f) of the State CEQA Guidelines and Class 25 of the Environmental Document Reporting Procedures and Guidelines, adopted by your Board on November 17, 1987, because the project consists of the acquisition of land to preserve open space or lands for park purposes.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A Grant Project Agreement will be entered into and administered under authority delegated to the Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation and pursuant to the Procedural Guide approved by the Board in 2009 only if all applicable conditions of the grant have been met. The Project Agreement will be approved as to form by County Counsel.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

These actions will have no impact on any other projects funded by the District but are required so that the AFC may proceed with the acquisition of open space in the Fifth Supervisorial District, if all applicable conditions are met.

CONCLUSION

Please instruct the Executive Officer-Clerk of the Board to return one adopted copy of this letter to the Chief Executive Office, Capital Projects/Debt Management Division, and one to the Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors

3/6/2012

Page 4

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Russ Guiney", with a stylized, flowing script.

RUSS GUINEY

Director

RG:IV:LB

c: Chief Executive Office
County Counsel
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors